



*Discovering our history, Preserving our past, Sharing our stories.*



## Know History. Build A Better Future.

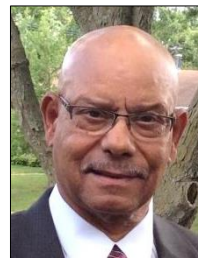
*By Sharon Wirth, Museum Board member*

Since September, the Museum has been working on a banner project featuring people of color. The result of this collaboration is an ISU student-designed 8' by 20' vinyl mural that will hang on the exterior north wall of the Museum at 416 Douglas.

The colorful and informative mural features nine African-American individuals and their Ames connections: Walter Madison, Archie Martin, Nancy Martin, George Washington Carver, Jack Trice, James Herman Banning, John Shipp, Nellie Shipp and Willa Ewing. There is an interactive feature that allows viewers to download an app to learn more about the individuals.

To celebrate the installation, a ribbon cutting will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> at noon. Attendance can be either in-person or virtual. Get the link on the Museum's website, [ameshistory.org](http://ameshistory.org). In-person attendees should wear a mask and observe social distancing.

Building on the Museum's commitment to sharing stories about people of color, long time Ames resident and AHM board member, **Wayne Clinton**, will give a



virtual presentation on Tuesday, April 13, 7 pm. Entitled *"Personally Speaking - Some Things You Don't Know About Me"*, the presentation is about being Black in the Midwest and the sometimes cautious navigation that requires. A link to this can also be obtained on the

Museum's website, [ameshistory.org](http://ameshistory.org). **Please join us!**

The student designers were members of the Graphic Design Social Club at Iowa State University and their advisor, Alex Braidwood. They were Helen Barton, Barsha Budhathoki, John Marquis, Darbi Shaw, and Oni Wright. Involved from AHM were Wayne Clinton, Mary Logsdon, Ryan Riley, Casie Vance and Sharon Wirth.

## Museum Open Again



Open hours are now Fridays, noon to 4 pm or by appointment. Masks are required and new space arrangements allow room to maintain six-foot distancing. The

exhibit, **Uncorked: the Spirited History of Alcohol in Ames** has been extended for several more months.

## 2021 Lecture Series

All lectures are delivered on Zoom. To register, go to the Museum's website, [ameshistory.org](http://ameshistory.org).

January's lecture is now available on the Museum's YouTube channel: **PROHIBITION IN IOWA**  
*By Linda McCann, Author and Iowa History Researcher*

We regret that February's lecture is not available due to AAMI policies: **ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES: IOWA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY**  
*By Sean Donaldson, African American Museum of Iowa*

Tuesday, March 30, 7 pm via Zoom  
**STEAMLINERS ACROSS IOWA**

*By Bob Bourne, Iowa Railroad Historian*

From the mid-1930s through the 1950s, sleek, modern railroad Streamliners criss-crossed Iowa. Bourne will cover some of the important design elements characteristic of railroad streamlining and talk about the memorable trains that ran through Iowa on several railroads emphasizing the Streamliners of the Chicago and North-western Railroad through central Iowa.



Wednesday, April 28, 7 pm via Zoom

**SECESSIONITUS IN WEST AMES: THE 4TH WARD 'INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT,' 1914-1920**

*By Douglas Biggs, Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Kearney*

On October 20, 1916 a petition was filed in District Court declaring the intention of residents in the area south of the Iowa State College campus to separate from Ames and become a separate town. Biggs will chart this action's beginning in 1914, the complaints leveled at city leaders about inequities in services and the resolution of this colorful chapter in local history.



Tuesday, May 25, 7 pm via Zoom

**FIRST LADIES:**

**MORE THAN THE WOMEN BEHIND THE MEN**

*By Diana Carlin, Professor Emerita of Communication, St. Louis University*

The position of first lady is not outlined in the Constitution or constituted by law. There are no guidelines and no salary. Since Martha Washington, each woman who served took on similar responsibilities and brought their own experiences and interests to the position. They mirrored their times but also broke out of them to help shape women's place in society. Carlin looks at the role's development by highlighting some of the most influential first ladies.



Wednesday, June 30, 7 pm via Zoom

**FOUNDATIONS FOR ONE COMMUNITY:**

**THE HISTORY OF PEOPLE OF COLOR IN AMES, EARLIEST TIMES TO 1950**

*By Gloria Betcher, Associate Teaching Professor of English, Iowa State University*

Today, the City of Ames and Iowa State University are working to create one community that is more inclusive for all residents. But what was Ames like for people of color before the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century? Hear about the sometimes-difficult experiences of Ames' residents of color, those who laid the foundations upon which the city and Iowa State are building a better future.



*The Shipp Family, 1924, L to R: Larmar, Julia Nell, Thelma, John Sr., Nellie Martin Shipp, Archie Lou, John Jr. and Mildred.*

The Lecture Series is presented in partnership with Ames Public Library.



### 2020 Annual Report Highlights

During the pandemic, there was increased presence on social media, work on diversity initiatives and new digital projects. Staff also took over more physical space on the second floor of our building to allow for social distancing and an expanded volunteer program.

#### By the Numbers:

- 40 programs given to 921 people
- 111,567 engagements on social media
- 184 research requests answered
- 100 resources digitized & searchable online
- 317 collection objects cataloged
- 2,234 volunteer hours by 65 volunteers

**2020 Income:** \$178,087; **Expenses:** \$169,449  
\$8,638 added to operating reserves

Pandemic-related funding was received from CARES Act/Paycheck Protection Program and Iowa Arts and Culture Emergency Relief Fund.

#### Endowment Funds

2020 donations: \$12,229; total to date: \$264,101

#### Capital Improvement Fund

2020 donations: \$5,000; total to date: \$64,965

**Exhibits:** Uncorked: The Spirited History of Alcohol in Ames, City Hall Bombing Anniversary, Flappers, Billy Sunday, Resource Recovery Plant, Paul Martin, WOI, Old-fashioned Christmas, Power + Pluck: Remarkable Women of Story County.

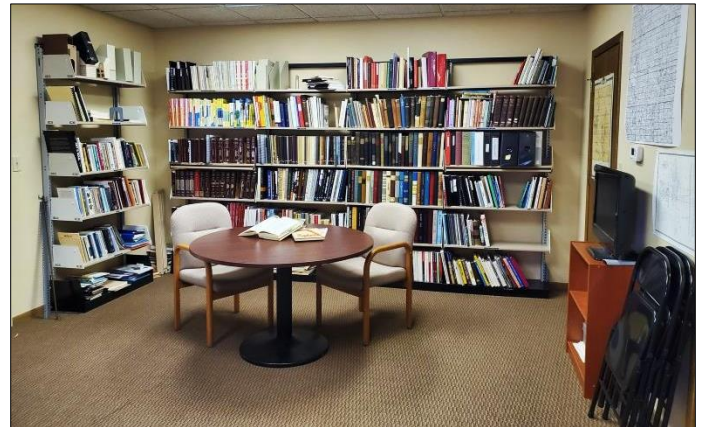
**Virtual 360° exhibits:** Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped Ames and Hoggatt School Tour.

**Increased online engagement:** emails, social media and digital resources including Facebook, Instagram and YouTube pages – use increased 327% over 2019.

*Ames History at Home* was developed on AHM's website with links to online exhibits, research help, events and history activities to do at home. Ames history resources now available online are yearbooks, phone books, city directories, maps, books, and more.

**Lecture Series:** the three live online lectures were viewed by 225 people; the YouTube recordings were viewed 622 times.

**To view the complete, illustrated Annual Report,** go to 'About Us' on our website, click on Annual Report.



*A more spacious Marvin F. Miller Historical Research Room has been established on the Museum's second floor. It includes reference materials such as phone directories and yearbooks among many others.*

### Meet AHM Collections Intern

Our collections intern this spring is Savanna Johnson. Savanna is a senior anthropology student at the University of Northern Iowa who will graduate in May with a bachelor's in anthropology, a minor in history and a program certificate in museum studies. Savanna was inspired as a child to work in museums by the 2006 film *Night at the Museum*. Savanna has been working diligently with the collection to build the database, catalog objects and prepare artifacts for long term storage - and is excited to learn hands-on skills.



### Now Taking Nominations

The **Ames History Maker Award** honors an individual, organization or family that has had an impact on the history of Ames.

Nominations will be accepted through April 30.

The form is at: [www.ameshistory.org/historymaker](http://www.ameshistory.org/historymaker)

### Near Brush with History

Last year, when the Museum had rentable space on its second floor, the Biden campaign leased it prior to the Democratic primaries. Though it was a beehive of activity, sadly, Mr. Biden himself did not visit the space.

### 2021 Board Leadership

**President:** Lynette Spicer  
**Vice President:** Bob Bourne  
**Secretary:** Peter Hallock  
**Treasurer:** Ken Cameron

**Board members:** Don Beitz, Wayne Clinton, Dan Franklin, Becky Jordan, Chris Nelson, Kate Orngard, Ryan Riley, Tracey Stoll, Sharon Wirth

### Introducing New Board Members

**Chris Nelson** is a seventh-generation Ames native. After graduating from Iowa State in Chemical and Civil Engineering, he and his wife, Anne, moved to Chicago to start their careers. After two years, jobs took them to Des Moines where they lived for nine years and had their three boys, Erik, Ian and Evan. In 2008, Chris and his family returned to Ames when he joined the family business, Nelson Electric. Since his return, he has been involved in the community, serving on the boards of several non-profit organizations including the Ames Chamber, FarmHouse Fraternity and Mainstream Living. He also served for six years on the Ames City Council. His family's long history in Ames has led to a lifelong interest in Ames' past. In his spare time, he enjoys running and biking and has recently started bringing new life to several old buildings in Ames.

**Lifelong  
interest**

**Kate Orngard** is honored to be a new board member with Ames History Museum. Kate, her husband Charles, and four children ages 9 to 18 have called Ames home for over 7 years. They have lived all over the western half of the United States but feel truly "at home" in Ames and are very grateful for our community. Kate is a Realtor with Friedrich Iowa Realty and Charles is a Financial Advisor. Prior to joining the real estate business Kate was in the I.T. recruiting world for 20+ years as a recruiter, national recruiting manager and ultimately a director of operations. Kate is excited to be part of the Ames History Museum Board and create more awareness about our town's rich history. She believes that knowing and understanding where we've come from helps us to fully appreciate what we have as a community. This knowledge can guide us in creating an environment where our children and generations to come will flourish and thrive.

**Knowledge  
can guide us**

Ames native **Tracey Stoll** earned her B.A. in public relations journalism from the University of Wyoming, and has had a career in public relations, marketing and fundraising. She left Wyoming for Chicago then lived in southern California for 29 years. Before returning to Ames in 2016, she served 18 years as VP of marketing and community outreach for a retirement community in Claremont, CA. In Ames, she started her business, Tracey Stoll Professional Downsizing, to help seniors and families with decluttering, moving and preparing homes for sale. She has always loved history and her family's genealogy. Inspired by her memories of "old Ames" in the 1960s and early '70s, she got involved with Ames History Museum. She loves learning from the Museum's programs and staff. Her ongoing goal is to broaden awareness and support for the Museum, which she sees as a treasure that many have yet to discover. She has chaired AHM's annual benefit event for the last three years.

**Treasure to  
discover**

### 2020 Year-End Appeal

In a year where our needs were great, our members responded with real generosity. Our year-end appeal brought \$13,973 to the Museum's operations – and added to the mid-year call to match dollars offered anonymously, donations totaled \$33,663. We offer our profuse thanks to all donors!



### Library Partnership

The Ames Public Library is an active partner for local history. They have recently added links to recordings of our lectures to their website and have added a book list of resources related to each lecture. To find this enhanced offering, go to: <https://www.amespubliclibrary.org/HistoryLectures> OR from the Library's homepage: <https://www.amespubliclibrary.org> > Learn & Explore > Local History.



### News Shorts

- ♦ Keep an eye on the Museum's website for possible **expansions** to weekly open hours. More hours may be added as time goes on. Appointments are also taken.
- ♦ The Ames Municipal Electric System marks its **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** in 2021. Citizens voted 'yes' in March 1896 and the City earmarked \$12,000 for its establishment.
- ♦ On February 11, 2021 the U.S. Board on Geographic Names approved the **renaming** of Squaw Creek. The creek flows into the South Skunk in the southern part of Ames and will now be called **loway Creek** in honor of the Native American tribe that inhabited Iowa. 'Squaw' is a reference to indigenous women that is considered a slur. Sign changing begins!
- ♦ The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is offering access to **free online education resources** in art, culture and history to assist teachers and families. They include over 1,400 documents, photos, maps and videos from the State Historical Society of Iowa and the State Historical Museum. View those resources here: <https://iowaculture.gov/education-resources>.
- ♦ Last August, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs announced that Ames was one of seven communities designated with **Cultural and Entertainment Districts**. CEDs receive support to help attract investment, tourism and quality-of-life enhancements. The CED program certifies areas that are recognized as hubs of cultural activity and the Ames announcement specifically mentioned the Museum.
- ♦ With the departure of **Collections Manager**, Carly Hlubek last November, the Museum is searching for a replacement that will hopefully start in April.
- ♦ In December, the Museum **received a \$5,000 grant** to support staff salaries from the Iowa Arts & Culture Emergency Relief Fund. It was provided by the Iowa Arts Council/Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Humanities' "Exploring the Human Endeavour" through the federal C.A.R.E.S. Act legislation."

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

### Upcoming Exhibit

*A Woman's Place is Everywhere: Groundbreaking Women in Ames History* tells the story of local women who stepped out of their expected roles to have an impact in the community. It will be a four-part series honoring women who broke barriers in science, business, activism and government, including Ada Hayden, Rowena Stevens and Helen LeBaron Hilton. The first part will feature women in science and will be on display in the museum's Douglas Avenue windows from April 1 to June 30, 2021.

### G. W. Carver Tour of Ames, Iowa

This new virtual tour is designed to be viewed from home or to accompany a drive. It takes you to locations in Ames with a George Washington Carver connection. Go from location to location by clicking the bubbles in the 360 photo or by using other navigational aids. In its first three weeks, 1,709 people have viewed it! Launch it from our website.



### Blair is Back

The beautifully restored portrait of Ames' founder, John Blair has been on loan to the Chamber of Commerce since 2014. The loan has ended, so Blair was carefully packed in his special crate (above), maneuvered down the Chamber stairs and transported down the street to the museum where he is in safe storage, awaiting his next display location.

### Maria Pearson Documentary

Wartburg College (Waverly, IA) students are creating a documentary about Ames-based Native American activist, Maria Pearson. Pearson (Running Moccasins, Yankton-Sioux) was known for her work that resulted in the 1990 Native American Graves and Repatriation Act. She defended the remains of her people so that they could be undisturbed during their Spirit Journeys. To learn more: <https://www.mypeoplesbones.com>



### Walter G. Madison: Early African American Pioneer from Iowa State

By Nick Fetty, Iowa State University College of Engineering

Walter Garfield Madison was the third African American student to graduate from Iowa State and was the first to receive a degree in mechanical engineering (ME) in 1914. The yearbook described him as a 'serious fellow of sterling worth.'

Madison was born and raised in Manor, TX just northeast of Austin. He graduated with a diploma in steam engineering from Alabama's Tuskegee Institute in 1906. Madison filed a patent for a "flying machine" in 1910 and was granted the patent in 1912.



Perhaps influenced by George Washington Carver, an Iowa State alumnus on the faculty at Tuskegee, Madison moved to Ames so he could continue his studies at Iowa State College.

As a student at Iowa State, Madison was a member of the Forum literary society and also played first clarinet in the Iowa State College Military Band. In the fall of 1912, Madison lived in "The Maples", the home of Edgar Stanton who was then dean of the junior college and part of ME's first graduating class in 1872.

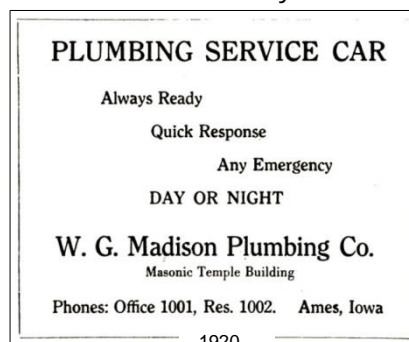


1915: Madison is fourth from the left, front row.

According to the Ames Intelligencer newspaper, "Madison was a public-spirited young man." In 1915, he wrote a letter to the editor of the Ames Weekly Tribune. A traveling troupe had just put on a tent show presentation of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in Ames. Grateful for writers such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Madison

explained at length that it was now '*not the message of Uncle Tom's Cabin of fifty years ago, but...we need respect, pure and simple respect - not an abstract, something unearned but due recognition for our status in the things that measure men*.'

After graduating with his ME degree, Madison stuck around Ames for the next two and half decades working as a heating and plumbing contractor. His business was initially in the Masonic Building (SW



corner of Douglas and Fifth) but later moved to the Olsan Building (SW corner of Main St. and Burnett). During his time in Ames he helped in the construction of sections of the

city's sewer system, part of a major public works project in 1916-17. He is also credited with writing part of the first Iowa Plumbing Code.

Despite these contributions he made to the community, Madison was subjected to unfair treatment because of his race when he and a client were denied service at a downtown Ames restaurant on Feb. 1, 1922. Madison filed a lawsuit in the Story County District Court against the restaurant's owner for the humiliation and mental anguish he experienced because of being denied service. The case was settled out of court in January 1923 and Madison was awarded \$100. State law at the time forbade restaurants, hotels and other establishments open to the public to deny service based on race or color.

In 1917, Madison and Edgar Stanton participated in a reception and banquet "in honor of the colored officers' training camps at Fort Des Moines." Then during World War II, the Army purchased Madison's patent for "a radiator bracket designed to support radiators from walls rather than floors" which were installed in various Army camps.

Madison's son Horace, a Private 1st Class, served in World War II and was killed in action in Italy in 1945. Just three years later, son Archie, a 1st Lieutenant in the Army engineers, died while serving in Korea. Archie studied mechanical engineering at Iowa State and served in the Pacific theater during World War II.

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## Local Stories

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Walter Madison left Ames in 1938 to serve as chief engineer at Fisk University, a historically black university in Memphis, TN. In this position he was in "charge of all engineering aspects of the operation of the university's plant, which included 40 buildings." From 1942 to 1944 he served as a professor of mechanical engineering at Howard University, a historically black university in Washington D.C.

Walter Madison passed away at Freedmen's Hospital on the Howard University campus on Feb. 28, 1964. He was 76. Madison was survived by two of his sons who both also pursued careers in engineering. His oldest, Walter Jr., studied general engineering at Iowa State in the late 1930s, worked as a mechanical engineer in Washington D.C., and passed away in 1985. Ira, his youngest, was a civil engineer in Los Angeles and passed away in 2000.



### The Gilman Pipeline

In the last newsletter, prominent Black chemist, Samuel Massey was profiled, a student of Henry Gilman's. The following is a footnote to Massey's story.

Henry Gilman was a prominent scientist added to Iowa State's Chemistry faculty by Winfred Coover. Gilman arrived in Ames in 1919, having earned his Ph.D. at Harvard in 1918.

After graduation, Gilman went to the University of Illinois but left there because he saw unlimited opportunities to develop what he wanted to accomplish in organic chemistry by coming to Iowa State's department under Coover's leadership.

He started as an assistant professor of organic chemistry and in 1923, at age 30, was promoted to full professor. He taught all the organic chemistry courses at Iowa State and was a consummate researcher. He became well known for the quality of the students he graduated and the pioneering work they did under his mentorship. He was the first member of the department to be named to the prestigious National Academy of Science.



The Chemistry Building at Iowa State was named after him in 1973.

### A noteworthy footnote in Gilman's story at Iowa State was the "Gilman Pipeline."

In the 1920s and 1930s organizations such as the NAACP and the National Urban League worked tirelessly to achieve equal rights for African Americans. During this time period, very few were able to pursue a higher education in any discipline. Despite these nearly-insurmountable social and economic challenges, some were able to pursue graduate degrees in various fields.

A 1946 book, *Holders of Doctorates Among American Negroes*, covered 1876-1943. In 1971, *Negroes in Science* provided statistical information on African Americans who earned Ph.D.s in various science fields from 1876-1969.

According to the 1971 author, four of the top five producers of African American Chemistry Ph.D. graduates were located in the Midwest: Wayne State University (Detroit), University of Chicago, The Ohio State University and Iowa State University.

In the 1930s, Henry Gilman began to establish a remarkable legacy of producing African American Ph.D.s. Gilman was opposed to racial discrimination and frequently had African American students in his research group. In 1933, one of Gilman's students, Nathaniel Calloway, became the first African-American Ph.D. chemist west of the Mississippi.

In the 1950s, ISU had at least 16 African Americans enrolled in the Department of Chemistry. Considering that only 42 Black Americans earned a doctorate in Chemistry in 2003, Gilman's efforts are truly notable. This 'critical mass' of students at ISU served as a key retention factor for the success of these students in the department. Alongside Gilman's scientific achievements, it is important to recognize his efforts to create a 'proverbial' pipeline of African American Ph.D. chemists as well as his relationship with HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) where he actively recruited graduate students.

Gilman remained active in research until 1975 when he was 82 years old. He died November 7, 1986 when he was 93 years of age.

*Excerpted from 'Chemistry at Iowa State University: Some Historical Accounts from the Early Years' by Harry Svec*

Ames History Museum  
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**Ames History Museum Board:**

President: Lynette Spicer

Vice-President: Bob Bourne

Secretary: Peter Hallock

Treasurer: Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Wayne Clinton, Dan Franklin, Becky Jordan, Chris Nelson, Kate Orngard, Ryan Riley Tracey Stoll, Sharon Wirth. Monthly Board meetings are the 3rd Thursday at 7 pm. Members Welcome!

**Museum Staff:**

Executive Director: Casie Vance

Collections Mgr: vacant

Research & Exhibits Mgr: Alex Fejfar

Emeritus Staff: Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

The Ames History Museum is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Museum: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010 Hours: Fri. noon – 4 pm/by appt.

Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

Phone: 515-232-2148

E-mail: [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org)

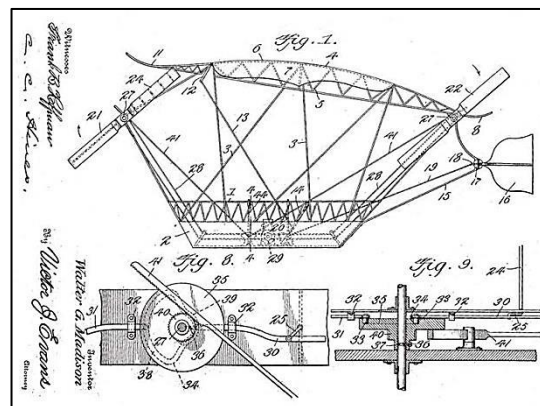
Website: [www.AmesHistory.org](http://www.AmesHistory.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ameshistory](http://www.facebook.com/ameshistory)

Search 'Ames History Museum' on Instagram and YouTube

The newsletter is published four times a year for Museum members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or email [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org). Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School at 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, IA. Spring/summer hours to be announced.



A blueprint  
for Walter  
Madison's  
"Flying  
Machine."  
U.S. Patent  
Office image.  
See Walter  
Madison's  
story on  
page 6.

## Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Museum, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online on our website!

<b>Introductory - 1st year</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Friend</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$100</b>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Ames History Museum, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010**